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Fulbright Says West Shares Berlin Blame

Foreign Relations Chairman Tells British Americans Contributed to Crisis

LONDON, Sept. 30 (AP).—United States Senator Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, told a news conference tonight the West is not entirely blameless for development of the Berlin crisis.

The Soviet Union is not the only culprit, he said, and went on:

"We bear heavy responsibilities for the situation in this situation, which is to my shame, as it is to anyone in the West.

"Certainly it was not just the fault of the Russians. The Americans contributed much to this. I do not know how much the British and others contributed. I do not want to be self-righteous about it."

Would Fix Russian Terms

Senator Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was here as an observer at the British Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, which discussed the projected entry of the United Kingdom into the European Common Market. He was showered with many questions as to the American attitude toward the Berlin crisis and the related problem of the economic future of Western Europe.

Senator Fulbright said it is urgent, in weighing the Berlin crisis, to determine what the Russians mean by such terms as "free city" and "free access."

He said he believes the matter of such definitions is now being considered by United States Secretary of State Rusk and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko in their talks in New York.

The Russians, he added, are with good reason concerned about the possibility that atomic weapons might be given to West Germany.

"It is a matter of legitimate concern to the Russians," he said.

Asked whether atomic weapons should be given to West

Germany in any circumstances, the Senator said the question does not arise now. Such weapons should be withheld from West Germany if there is a reasonable prospect of progress in reaching some kind of an acceptable agreement with the Russians, he said.

"I think you cannot be dogmatic," he said. "Supposing things get much worse than they are now, and we become much more anxious because the Russians might be planning to move by force across Western Europe, if they should violate the independence of any of our important allies, then you reach a different conclusion. It (giving atomic weapons to West Germany) depends on how much worse things get, and how serious the people in charge of our affairs at the time judge it to be."

Senator Fulbright then emphasized he was not speaking for the United States Government, or outlining any official policy.

Senator Fulbright refused to be pinned down on a question as to whether, in negotiating with the Russians, the United States might use the possibility of giving nuclear weapons to West Germany as a bargaining point.

"I did not say that," he said. "But I do think the prospect that West Germany might get atomic weapons is a matter of legitimate concern to the Russians."

Wouldn't stress Move

But it is a mistake, he added, to place too much stress on the possibility of giving nuclear weapons to West Germany. He said he did not want to give an impression that "West Germans are particularly untrustworthy."

The Senator did not elaborate on his belief that the United States and the West had made mistakes in their handling of the Berlin crisis.

Senator Fulbright will return to the United States Monday. His chief purpose here was to attend deliberations of the Commonwealth Conference, wrestling with the question of whether Britain should join the European Common Market. It is an issue which has placed some strains on Commonwealth relations, and the Senator went out of his way to emphasize that the United States had not tried to influence Britain in reaching a decision. But he did not conceal his own hope that Britain would join the continental economic community.

Aids Help With Lead

In an address to the conference in the House of Commons, he warned Commonwealth and other free nations against expecting the United States to carry more than its share of the burden of preserving freedom. The United States, he said, is carrying too great a load.

"We ask you to help, not to prepare for nuclear war, but to help us to prevent nuclear war," he declared.

The United States, he went on, "is able and willing to bear its just share of the burden of free world security, but it cannot accept a disproportionate share when other nations, with equally as much at stake, are reluctant to bear responsibilities commensurate with their strength."

He hailed Britain's decision to seek entry into the European Common Market, saying:

"The single most encouraging trend in recent years toward the strengthening of the free world is the movement toward European unification and the single most important event within that trend is the decision of the United Kingdom to seek admission to the European economic community."

Only Britain has the experience and political maturity needed to lead Europe into a new era, he said.

"Without Britain there can be little doubt that West Ger-

many, with its great industrial machine and skilled and enterprising population, will play the pre-eminent if not the dominant role in the European community. I, for one, can contemplate this prospect with little enthusiasm."

He called West Germany a fledgling democracy not yet ready for a role of leadership in the free world.

A number of speakers at the conference have insisted the United States is trying to push Britain into the Common Market for political and economic reasons of its own.

Conservative Heard From

At one point in the conference Viscount Hinchinbrooke, a right-wing Conservative Party member of Parliament, demanded to know why the American party—Senators Fulbright and four colleagues—stayed in the meeting hall only to listen to arguments favoring Britain's joining the European Community.

He pointed to empty seats, which had been assigned to the Americans, and said the British government's decision to join the Common Market "is to fulfill a pledge and a promise given to the United States."

A Nigerian delegate, Odemo of Ishara, an impressive figure in a ray and white robe, joined the Viscount's assault, saying, "We heard that this move was inspired by the United States."

Senator Fulbright later explained he had been called away to confer with a British Parliamentary group in the House of Commons.

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